

In the Specification

Please amend page 4, second and third paragraphs to read as follows:

Mattress structure 50 further includes a support core 58 and may also include a liner 60 placed over support core 58. Liner 60 may be formed of a shear, low friction material so that top cover 52 slides relatively easily over core 58. Core 58 generally includes a body 62 that defines a plurality of mounting locations 64. As will be further described below, in one embodiment of the invention, mounting locations 64 form enclosures 66 (Figures 3 and 4) which respectively receive a plurality of gas containers 68A-D.

Referring now to Figure 3, body 62 generally includes an upper layer 70 and a lower layer 72. The upper layer 70 is connected to the lower layer 72 by a plurality of seams 74. Seams 74 may be formed, depending upon the materials used for layers 70, 72, using any of a variety of conventional techniques such as sewing, heat welding, etc. As shown in Figure 3, seams 74 of this embodiment are substantially parallel to one another thereby forming enclosures 66 as a plurality of substantially cylindrical spaces for receiving a plurality of gas containers 68 A-D (best shown in Figure 4). While a variety of different materials may be suitable for forming body 62, in one embodiment of the invention, body 62 is formed preferably of substantially non-stretchable material such as a non-stretch fabric or non-stretch film material. Non-stretch fabric materials may include manmade or natural fibers (or a blend) that are woven, non-woven, or knitted. Non-stretch film materials may include manmade films and manmade, natural, or blended scrim fiber. These materials may be constructed into, for example, scrim reinforced films or non-reinforced films. For example, a woven nylon twill material may be used. The type of material should be sufficiently flexible to permit insertion and removal of gas containers 68A-D, but also able to contain or reinforce gas container 68A-D (which may otherwise flex or expand to a size beyond that defined by enclosures 66) to the dimensions defined by the enclosures 66.

Furthermore, please amend the last paragraph of page 4 that continues to page five to read:

Figure 4 shows core 58 in a partially assembled state. As shown, gas containers 68A-D are inserted into enclosures 66 (gas container 68A is shown partially inserted). Additional gas containers 68A-D may be inserted into the remaining enclosures 66 to complete the assembly of core 58. Each gas container 68A-D is, in this embodiment, connected to a gas source (not shown), such as an air compressor or pump. In this example,

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gas container 68A is connected by plumbing 76A to a gas source. Gas containers 68B-D are connected to one another and to a gas source by plumbing 76B. Thus, as shown in Figure 4, multiple gas containers may be connected together at various locations along the length of core 58. Each of these groups of gas containers 68A-D may be connected to a separate outlet of the gas source or through use of valves such that they are pressurized independently of the other groups. For example, gas container 68A may be pressurized to a higher pressure, thereby providing a stiffer portion of core 58, while gas containers 68B-D may be pressurized to a lower pressure to provide more cushion or give. Any combination may be accomplished by employing conventional plumbing or tubing. Thus, for example, the head portion of mattress 50 may be made firmer than the upper body portion of mattress 50.

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Please amend the second paragraph of page 5 to read:

It should be understood that while enclosures 66 and gas containers 68A-D are shown as being substantially cylindrical having an opening at one end, any of a variety of shapes may be used with single or multiple openings to receive gas container 68A-D. For example, core 58 may include a single enclosure 66 that expands the entire length and width of core 58, and encloses a single rectangularly shaped gas container 68. Alternatively, a grid of enclosures may be formed (square, rectangular, round, etc.) for receiving a plurality of similarly shaped gas containers. Moreover, enclosures 66 may be formed diagonally relative to the length and width of core 58 to receive gas containers 68A-D of virtually any shape.
